

Claims

What is claimed is:

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1. An apparatus for displaying information on a television, comprising:
 - a circuit that receives wireless television communication signals, the wireless television communication signals including sensory data and programming data related to the sensory data;
 - a circuit that receives computer network communication signals;
 - a circuit that displays the received wireless television communication signals and the received computer network communication signals on the television; and
 - a circuit that displays an option palette on the television, the option palette having a plurality of icons that facilitate a user's navigation through the received wireless television communication signals.
 2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
 - a circuit that displays a plurality of filtering options on the television in response to the user selecting an icon in the option palette, each filtering option representing a way in which the programming data in the received wireless television communication signals is displayed on the television.
 3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein a filtering option is filtering the programming data by a category associated with the programming data.
 4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the category is movies.
 5. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the category is sports.
 6. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the category is specials.
 7. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the category is attractions.
 8. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the category is drama.
 9. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the category is education.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein a filtering option is filtering the programming data by a
2 predetermined time period associated with the programming data.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the predetermined time period is an hour.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the predetermined time period is a day.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the predetermined time period is a month.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

2 a circuit for displaying an on-screen keyboard on the television in response to the user
3 selecting an icon in the option palette, the on-screen keyboard having a plurality of keys;

4 a circuit for entering a search command in response to the user selecting the keys of the
5 on-screen keyboard; and

6 a circuit for searching the programming data in accordance with and in response to the
7 entered search command.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising:

2 a remote controller for enabling a user to select the keys of the on-screen keyboard.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

2 a circuit for displaying an on-screen search window on the television in response to the
3 user selecting an icon in the option palette, the on-screen search window for displaying a search
4 command entered by the user;

5 a remote keyboard in communication with the on-screen search window circuit such that
6 the user can enter the search command in the on-screen search window via the remote keyboard;
7 and

8 a circuit for searching the programming data in accordance with and in response to the
9 entered search command.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the remote keyboard is a wired keyboard.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the remote keyboard is a wireless keyboard.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

2 a circuit that filters the programming data of the wireless television communication signals
3 by channel;
4 a circuit that displays a plurality of channels of programming data on the television; and
5 a circuit that permits the user to select a number of channels displayed on the television
6 in response to the user selecting an icon in the option palette.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the wireless television communication signals are received
2 from a wireless communication channel that is communicatively connected to at least one
3 satellite.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the computer network communication signals are received
2 from a computer network communication channel that is communicatively connected to the
3 Internet.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a remote controller for facilitating a user's selection of an icon.

1 23. A method for displaying information on a television, comprising the steps of:
2 receiving wireless television communication signals, the wireless television
3 communication signals including sensory data and programming data related to the sensory data;
4 receiving computer network communication signals;
5 displaying the received wireless television communication signals and the received
6 computer network communication signals on the television;
7 generating an option palette having a plurality of icons that facilitate a user's navigation
8 through the received wireless television communication signals; and
9 displaying the option palette on the television.

1 24. The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of:
2 displaying a plurality of filtering options on the television in response to the user selecting
3 an icon in the option palette, each filtering option representing a way in which the programming
4 data in the received wireless television communication signals is displayed on the television.

1 25. The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of:
2 filtering the programming data by a category associated with the programming data in
3 response to the user selecting a filtering option.

1 26. The method of claim 25, wherein the category is movies.

1 27. The method of claim 25, wherein the category is sports.

1 28. The method of claim 25, wherein the category is specials.

1 29. The method of claim 25, wherein the category is attractions.

1 30. The method of claim 25, wherein the category is drama.

1 31. The method of claim 25, wherein the category is education.

32. The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of filtering the programming data by a predetermined time period associated with the programming data in response to the user selecting a filtering option.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein the predetermined time period is an hour.

34. The method of claim 32, wherein the predetermined time period is a day.

35. The method of claim 32, wherein the predetermined time period is a month.

1 36. The method of claim 23, further comprising the steps of:

2 displaying an on-screen keyboard on the television in response to the user selecting an
3 icon in the option palette, the on-screen keyboard having a plurality of keys;

4 entering a search command in response to the user selecting the keys of the on-screen
5 keyboard; and

6 searching the programming data in accordance with and in response to the entered search
7 command.

1 37. The method of claim 36, further comprising the step of:

2 providing a remote controller for enabling a user to select the keys of the on-screen
3 keyboard.

1 38. The method of claim 23, further comprising the steps of:

2 displaying an on-screen search window on the television in response to the user selecting
3 an icon in the option palette, the on-screen search window for displaying a search command
4 entered by the user;

5 providing a remote keyboard in communication with the on-screen search window circuit
6 such that the user can enter the search command in the on-screen search window via the remote
7 keyboard; and

8 searching the programming data in accordance with and in response to the entered search
9 command.

1 39. The method of claim 38, wherein the remote keyboard is a wired keyboard.

1 40. The method of claim 38, wherein the remote keyboard is a wireless keyboard.

1 41. The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of:

2 filtering the programming data of the wireless television communication signals by channel;
3 selecting a number of channels of programming data to be displayed on the television in
4 response to the user selecting an icon in the option palette; and
5 displaying the selected number of channels of programming data on the television.

1 42. The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of:

2 receiving the wireless television communication signals from a wireless communication
3 channel that is communicatively connected to at least one satellite.

1 43. The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of:

2 receiving the computer network communication signals from a computer network
3 communication channel that is communicatively connected to the Internet.

1 44. The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of:

2 providing a remote controller for facilitating a user's selection of an icon.

1 45. An apparatus for displaying information on a television, comprising:

2 a digital satellite system (DSS) processing element communicatively connected to at least
3 one satellite communications channel for receiving digital communication signals, the received
4 digital communication signals including sensory data and programming data related to the

5 sensory data, the DSS processing element converting the received digital communication signals
6 into a form that can be displayed on the television, the DSS processing element generating an
7 option palette that can be displayed on the television, the option palette having a plurality of
8 icons that facilitate a user's navigation through the converted digital communication signals; and
9 an Internet processing element communicatively connected to the Internet for receiving
10 computer network communication signals and converting the received computer network
11 communication signals into a form that can be displayed on the television, the Internet processing
12 element receiving the converted digital communication signals and the option palette from the
13 DSS processing element and displaying the converted digital communication signals, the
14 converted computer network communication signals, and the option palette on the television.

1 46. The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the DSS processing element generates a plurality of
2 filtering options in response to the user selecting an icon in the option palette, each filtering
3 option representing a way in which the programming data in the converted digital communication
4 signals are displayed on the television, and the Internet processing element receives the plurality
5 of generated filtering options from the DSS processing element and displays the plurality of
6 generated filtering options on the television.

7 47. The apparatus of claim 46, wherein a filtering option is filtering the programming data by
8 a category associated with the programming data.

9 48. The apparatus of claim 46, wherein a filtering option is filtering the programming data by
10 a predetermined time period associated with the programming data.

1 49. The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the DSS processing element generates, and the Internet
2 processing element displays, an on-screen keyboard on the television in response to the user
3 selecting an icon in the option palette, the on-screen keyboard having a plurality of keys for
4 entering a search command, the DSS processing element searching the programming data in the
5 converted digital communication signals for information associated with an entered search
6 command.

1 50. The apparatus of claim 45, further comprising:

2 a remote controller for enabling the user to select an icon from the plurality of icons of
3 the option palette.